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Testing under way on all three orbiters

World Space Expo to celebrate NASA's 50 years in space

◆ **Shuttle Update:** Forward and aft closeout work continues on **Discovery**. Work to test for orbiter structural leakage and positive pressure was successfully completed. Final orbiter power down is scheduled for this week. Rollover to the VAB will be Sept. 19.

In the Vehicle Assembly Building, external tank No. 120 was transferred on Sept. 5 from its checkout cell to high bay No. 1 for mating to the solid rocket boosters. Closeout work is now under way, including mechanical and electrical connections of the tank and boosters.

Modifications are finished on the engine cutoff sensor wiring on **Atlantis**. This involved rerouting new wires and installing new resistors. Orbiter power system validation is complete. Technicians have finished waterproofing the orbiter's thermal protection system. Checkout and verification of the orbiter's remote manipulator system, also known as the shuttle arm, is under way.

Deservicing of the hypergolic fuel system is complete on **Endeavour**. Functional testing of the forward reaction control system is finished, as well as post-flight thermography inspections of the right- and left-wing leading edges.

The engine dome heat shields have been removed and preparations are under way for removal of the three shuttle main engines this week.

Technicians are preparing for the functional checkout of the left and right orbital maneuvering system pods, scheduled for this week.

◆ World Space Expo Event

Nov. 1 - 4: In celebration of NASA's 50 years in space exploration, the KSC Visi-

tor Complex in partnership with Space Florida and Space Coast Office of Tourism will host the inaugural World Space Expo event at KSC Nov. 1-4. The event will offer unique exhibits, appearances and the "Aerial Salute to 50 Years in Space" featuring the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds.

This unique event will occur in place of KSC Family Day/Open House for 2007, offering badged KSC and 45th Space Wing employees and their families unique opportunities to participate in various scheduled events and benefit from special ticket pricing.

Additional information will be provided to employees in coming weeks through the *Spaceport News*, the *Countdown*, the KSC Daily News, organization representatives, public address announcements and other communication devices. For more information, refer to: www.worldspaceexpo.com.



■ Bridge Construction on S.R. 405 (NASA Causeway) — The NASA Roy D.

Bridges Bridge and the Banana River Relief Bridge (NASA Causeway between KSC Industrial Area and CCAFS) are undergoing refurbishment during September. The work will provide a major facelift to the 42-year-old bascule bridge and ensure its continued and safe operation.

Construction will take place between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. during normal work days. The bridge will remain open to through traffic during this time with possible reduced speed limits, reduced traffic lanes, or short-duration closures for

drawbridge operations and inspections.

Extended closures will occur during certain construction activities and detour signs will be in place. These closures are intended to take place only during weekends, and further notifications and detour instructions of these closures will be given once closures are scheduled.

Please be alert to new traffic signs, traffic patterns and detours. Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

■ **Final Reminder** — The closing date for submitting speaker proposals for the NASA PM Challenge 2008 is Friday. For more details, go to the Web site: <http://pmchallenge.gsfc.nasa.gov/Speaker2008.htm>. The challenge will be held Feb. 26-27 in Daytona Beach. The PM Challenge is sponsored by the NASA Office of the Chief Engineer, the NASA Academy of Program/Project & Engineering Leadership and the NASA Office of Safety & Mission Assurance.

■ **Still Time To Preregister for Walk/Run** — The KSC Fitness Centers will sponsor the Intercenter Walk/Run on Sept. 18 at the Shuttle Landing Facility. The 2-mile walk/run, 5K run and 10K run are FREE for all spaceport employees. Stop by either fitness center by Friday to preregister. Late registration takes place at the race.

Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday for NASA KSC employees. Deadlines are 10 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays. E-mail news to anita.barrett@jbsc.ksc.nasa.gov. For questions or information, e-mail or call 321-867-2815. You can also find *Countdown* on the Web at nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/countdown/countdown-toc.html.